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V I E W

OF THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE TRADE
BETWEEN
GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

BY ANTHONY BROUGH.

To give Ease and Encouragement to Manufactory at Home,
to assist and protect Trade Abroad, to improve and keep in Heart
the national Colonies, like so many Farms of the Mother-Country,
will be principal and constant Parts of the Attention of such a
Prince. Bol.

L O N D O N:
PRINTED FOR G. G. J. AND J. ROBINSON, PATER-NOSTER-
ROW.

M.DCC.LXXXIX.
(PRICE ONE SHILLING.)

THE
 VOLUME
 OF THE
 PRINCIPLES OF THE
 IMPORTANCE OF THE TRADE

OF THE
 GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA
 OF THE

BY ANTHONY BROUGH



To give full
 to this and present
 the national collection
 will be principal and constant part of the function of the
 British Museum

LONDON
 PRINTED FOR G. C. AND J. ROBINSON, LATER-WEST
 ANTHONY BROUGH
 M.DCCCXXXIX

(PRICE ONE SHILLING)

TO
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE
PRINCE OF WALES.

SIR,

THE following Pages
are humbly submitted to the Con-
sideration of your ROYAL HIGH-
NESS,

By,

SIR,

Your ROYAL HIGHNESS'S,

Most faithful, and

Most obedient Servant,

ANTHONY BROUGH.

LONDON,
FEBRUARY 4, 1789.

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NATIONAL glory and power are the result of many causes, some of which are in constant operation, and others are variable, dependent on times and circumstances, and restrained by the several principles and several talents of those who sit at the helm of government. The whole importance of the British nation constantly and visibly results from

B the

the nature of her situation, the power of her fleets, and the extent of her commerce.

These are the causes, whose constant operations establish her consequence in every part of the world. While all other causes contribute to strengthen these, while the ministers and people endeavour to extend the energy of these, she will advance with great rapidity to all the splendour, opulence, and happiness, which the vigorous exertion of so uniformly conspiring causes can produce. Her situation demonstrates the necessity of establishing a powerful fleet, and the necessity of maintaining and manning this fleet, equally demonstrates the necessity of protecting, of encouraging, of extending our foreign commerce. On this ultimately, as on its basis, Britain has hitherto raised, and must continue to raise her glory.

Liberty and commerce are the characteristics of the British nation, and whoever thinks of us as of a people, as naturally thinks of our constitutional liberty and extensive commerce, as we think of easy politeness, and of insidious ambition, when we think of the French. Hence one of their most celebrated authors, cited by the late excellent writer Abbé Raynal, though talking on a different subject, has said, *That it is good to preach the gospel to savage nations ; for if they were to learn no more of the Christian religion, than what would teach them to go clothed, it would be of great service to the English manufactures.* Which, though intended by both as a sarcasm on our commerce, sufficiently denotes what they thought of its activity and extent.

Not the widest expanse of oceans, nor the opposite extremes of heat and cold,

nor the most dangerous situations of place, can affright the enterprizing spirit of the British traders: Could we but soar in imagination into the immense regions of space, that are above the boundaries of this earth, the genius of Britain would point out to us the extent of our commerce, as the great Scipio, in a vision from the same space, but in a different sense, pointed out to his grandson the utmost limits of the Roman empire and Roman glory. The cold of the frigid zone, and the heat of the torrid zone, were unsurmountable barriers to the ambition of Rome, in the North and South, while the Atlantic circumscribed her attempts on the West; and Ganges not only bade defiance to her arms, but likewise set a boundary to her renown in the East. The countries, which the Romans despaired of ever reaching, I do not say with their arms, but with their very name and reputation, form but the centre
of

of the British commerce. Every wind that blows wafts riches to some of our harbours, and every foreign nation equally dreads the approach of our armed vessels in time of war, and admires the riches and the multitude of our commercial fleets in time of peace.

But among these, how great soever may be their importance in the aggregate, which is certainly very great, all are not equally important—all need not be equally the subject of our concern, and of our solicitude. Some contribute to the splendour of the public at large, and to the luxury of individuals; the influence of their commodities are seen, are felt, are extolled by every one; while others bring along with them much more important articles; articles, which, without dazzling the eye of individuals by their beauty, or without calling their attention by immediate use in private

life, communicate to the nation that strength and vigour, which is necessary to maintain her dignity at home, to secure her confidence abroad, to defend her friends, and intimidate her foes ; I wish, indeed, that this were but common place parade of rhetoric, equally applicable to every branch of our multifarious commerce, and that every part of it abounded with articles equally important ; nay, I should not exaggerate were I to say, equally necessary for our very existence as a trading or as a free nation. Still the country, whence alone this important, this necessary commerce flows through many channels into Great Britain, has, these few years past, seemed, I know not how, to lie under a cloud of disgrace, and to be snatched from the warmth of our friendship by a mist of suspicion.—Russia.—Our present commercial connections with Russia, and our present political suspicions of Russia, deserve the steady consideration of every encourager

courager of commerce, and of every friend
to this country.

I have often declared, in the circles of my
private friends, and I now venture to de-
clare to the public, that of all the several
branches of commerce which enrich this
nation, there is none so important, none so
immediately connected with all others, as
our trade to Russia. Lop off this, and all
others will fade, and will, for a while, lose
all their vigour. Nor shall I stand in need
of long argument to evince it.

The mere contemplation of our connec-
tion with Russia, will satisfy the most un-
enlightened readers of the truth of my as-
sertion. The comprehensive influence of
this trade, is too great to be justly estimated
by those, who have not the leisure or the
opportunity to consider it all at once. If I
can collect into one point of view, and pre-

sent to my readers, in a few pages, all the several branches which circulate public benefit, from this original source, I flatter myself they will be impressed with the same notions of their importance, with which I am impressed myself. In order to this I will, as briefly as possible, consider the nature of the imports and exports of this trade, and what beneficial influence naturally results from them.

We import from Russia annually, into this kingdom, at least,

1st.	82,420,000	*Pounds of iron,
2nd.	3,168,000	†Pieces of deal.
3rd.	65,300,000	Pounds of hemp,
4th.	28,400,000	Pounds of flax.
5th.	41,624,000	Pounds of tallow.

6thly. To these we may add many other commodities, which both contribute to the

* A pound Avoirdupois.

† Each piece of deal will average twelve feet in length, and one and a half inch in thickness.

the comforts of private life, and furnish the most abundant materials, without which some of our manufactories could with great difficulty subsist.

The 82,420,000 pounds of iron, are employed in building houses, in the construction of every kind of wheel carriage, in the greatest part of our domestic utensils, in anchors for our large ships, and in the many tons of iron work that are necessarily employed in the several parts of them.

The 3,168,000 deals are imported into our harbours, and are then partly divided among all the inland towns and villages of the kingdom, for building of houses, and are partly retained in the harbours, for the augmenting and repairing our fleets.

The

The universal consumption of iron and deals must evince the necessity of importing them ; for any scarcity of these articles will infallibly increase the price of the most useful conveniences of life, and will, at the same time, raise the expences of the most magnificent buildings, and of the humblest cottages ; of the first rate men of war, and of the slightest skiffs, so that it is hard to determine whether the loss will be more grievously felt in our domestic ease and magnificence on land, or in our dignity and importance at sea.

It is owing to the cheapness of these articles, imported in such quantities, that new streets, I may say, new towns, start up on all sides, like sudden buildings in fairy lands, at every out-let of this metropolis. The face of the country is changed ; the ruinous uncleanly buildings are pulled down, and neat, convenient, habitations arise in
their

their stead. Every one whose heart is expanded with benevolence, will view the happy change with pleasure; and every one who knows the source of this change, will bless the country, whose produce thus amply contributes to beautify his own.

On hearing the immense quantity of 65,300,000 pounds of hemp imported into this kingdom, an Englishman immediately refers to the use of this article, likewise to the rigging of our ships.—This, to be sure, is a most important use, without which neither our royal navies nor our commercial fleets could subsist; and, of consequence, without which, the nation would lose many sources of its dignity, and many guards of its safety.

One year's importation of hemp from Russia, is sufficient to rig out 350 men of war of the first rate, or, of consequence, many numerous fleets of merchant vessels.

But

But that object of the first magnitude to the nation, does not engross the whole use of this excellent commodity. To mention the many manufactories, which indispensably call for it, the great consumption made in the detail service of land carriages, and all the necessary, though minute, uses of it in every private family in the kingdom, would fill a volume.

And though the next article which I have mentioned, be not so wholly necessary to the construction of our navy, still it is a kindred article to the hemp, and deserves the most hearty encouragement of all who are disposed to encourage our own manufactories.

The 28,400,000 pounds of flax, are manufactured into many millions of yards of every kind of excellent linen, both for our own domestic uses, and for foreign exportation.

The

The late treaty of commerce has fully convinced those, who might have been ignorant of it before, how greatly we surpass our neighbours, in the linen manufactories. As soon as the French were allowed to wear them, with a diminution of their duties, the demand for them immediately surpassed the most sanguine expectations of the British traders. The price of the manufacture rose in our home consumption, and if accidentally Russia had kept back the 28,400,000 pounds of flax, imported that year, the nation at large would either have been deprived of the benefit resulting from the exportation, or almost every individual would have been compelled to pay an exorbitant price for the necessary articles of their clothing.

Whether we consider the Irish as our rivals, or more modestly look up to them as our masters, in this excellent manufactory,
 this

this we may be convinced of, that if we were deprived of the millions of pounds of flax, annually imported from Russia, our want of materials, added to the superiority of their manufactures, and the low pay of their artificers, would irrecoverably transfer the greatest part of our linen trade to the sister kingdom.

The tallow, pitch, and tar, which we import from Russia, are likewise commodities, without which the price of almost every manufactory would be increased. These commodities being cheap in themselves, and being considered as the very lowest articles in the œconomy of domestic life, the importance of them is not sufficiently attended to by superficial observers. Let the trade of Russia be interrupted but one year; let the 41,624,000 pounds of tallow be exported to other places, the affluent men of pleasure will feel the shock communicated

communicated to trade, while thousands of industrious manufacturers will literally beg their bread. The exorbitant price of candle-light, added to the redoubled taxes on day-light, will make the gain of short days insufficient to the maintenance of their families.

Now, to these necessary imports from Russia, let us add the advantage of our exports thither, and we shall more clearly see the importance of our commercial connection with her.

The articles of exportation to Russia are so numerous, that there is hardly any one kind of commodity which we do not export thither. Nay, many articles imported raw from thence, are again exported to them from our manufactories. The dry salters import into their several harbours, upwards of 100,000*l.* value of sundry commodities annually;

annually ; hardwaremen and jewellers 70,000*l.* add to this above 12,000*l.* value in watches and clocks ; 28,000*l.* value in furs, upwards of 80,000*l.* in more obscure manufactures of Great Britain, and 500,000 pounds of tin, with 2,680,000 pounds of lead from our own mines. But, above all, the woollen, and the linen and cotton manufactories, are enriched by this commerce.

The Russians buy of us annually, upwards of 500,000* arshines of bays, calimancoes, camblets, and white cottons ; 170,000 arshines of ordinary and fine cloths, 200,000 arshines of cotton, velvets, velperets, druggets, flannels, phlug, and shag, and 500,000 arshines of shalloons and tabourets.

But nothing will give a clearer notion of the precise value of our exportations to Russia

* An arshine, 28 inches.

Russia, than to add here a list of those articles, which we export to Peterburgh alone. I shall extract it from the travels of the Rev. William Coxe, an ingenious writer, who has lately favoured the public with the most accurate accounts that have hitherto appeared, of the Muscovite empire. It cannot fail of gaining the attention of the commercial readers of every denomination ; and as I cannot obtain any accurate accounts of our exports, either to Peterburgh, or to any other harbour of Russia, of later date than the year 1777, it will convey some intelligence to every one, of the importance of this trade, who considers, that in the year 1777, we only employed 366 ships in our trade with Peterburgh, and that now we employ no less than 550 to Peterburgh, and 550 to the other harbours of Russia.

Goods imported by British ships, at Peterf-
burgh, in 1777.

Quantity.		Value.	
		£.	S.
2,154	Poods* of Allum	775	8
214	———— Benzoin	2,565	0
8,080	———— Brimstone	985	12
11,482	— Campeachy wood	4,592	16
579	———— Cheefe	706	4
126	———— Cochineal	5,040	0
1,288	———— Coffee	2,060	16
15	———— Confectionary	61	16
	———— Copper	120	8
978	———— Cork	660	0
6	———— Coral	500	0
108	———— Gum Arabic	129	16
1,560	———— Indigo	24,961	4
58,804	———— Lead	21,169	8
568	———— Mustard	1,362	12
		Quantity.	

*A pood, 36 pounds Avoirdupois Weight.

			Value.	
Quantity.			£.	S.
524	Poods of Oil		623	16
46	—	Olibanum	92	0
1,420	—	Pepper	3,418	16
37	—	Pewter	96	12
22½	—	Plates of gold and silver	7,507	0
608	—	Rice	243	12
54	—	Sugar refined	896	8
683	—	ditto raw		
409	—	Sal ammoniac	1,636	4
15,874	—	Tin	25,398	8
60	—	Tobacco and snuff	182	8
98	—	Verdigrease	393	12
206,816	Arshines*	Bays	20,956	12
100,494	—	Calimancoes & camblets	7,034	12
32,412	—	Camblets	6,880	8
C 2			Quantity.	

*An arshine, 28 inches.

		Value.	
Quantity.		£.	S.
164,205	Arrhines Cottons for printing }	7,225	0
7,132	— Fine cloth }	55,642	12
162,007	— Ordin. cloth }		
144,125	— Cotton, vel-	17,364	0
	vets, velve-		
	rets }		
45,995	— Druggets	3,219	12
9,828	— Flannels	589	12
16,225	— Plug and shag	1,986	0
365,896	— Shalloons	24,881	12
137,895	— Tabourets	9,652	16
	Clothes ready }	344	4
	made }		
	Hats	215	8
	Linen and }	342	16
	print. handker. }		
	Muslin and cambric	1,108	0
	Quilting	2,853	0
	Ribbands	133	0
	Stockings		

		Value.	
		£.	S.
2	Stockings —	1,787	0
0	Sundry silk stuffs	1,333	0
01	Sundry woollen ditto	2,131	0
01	Toys and millenary	9,490	8
8	Butter — — —	16	12
0	Capers — — —	1	8
8	Coals — — —	2,033	12
0	Chefnuts — — —	68	0
0	Chrystal — — —	190	4
8	Currants, raisins, and figs	384	8
12	Cutlery and hardware	19,181	16
8	Diamonds and precious	5,596	0
0	stones		
0	Earthen ware — —	5,890	0
4	Fans — — —	20	16
0	Frames for pictures	82	16
12	Furniture — — —	312	4
0	Furs — — —	40	0
0	Hops — — —	24	0
01	Lace and ruffles —	452	12
C 3		Leather	

		Value.	
		£.	S.
o	Leather dressed and undressed	519	4
o	Mathematical instruments	1,458	o
o	Musical instruments	451	16
8	Mohair — — — — —	45	16
21	Nuts — — — — —	45	8
8	Olives — — — — —	1	o
21	Paper hangings — — — — —	258	8
o	Pearls — — — — —	1000	o
4	Pencils and black lead	674	o
8	Pictures and copper plates	3,605	8
01	Pickles — — — — —	37	12
	Pork and hams — — — — —	57	8
o	Printed books — — — — —	607	o
o	Prunes — — — — —	94	o
01	Stoughton's drops — — — — —	13	4
01	Stone and marble — — — — —	822	o
4	Snuff boxes — — — — —	241	12
o	Tea — — — — —	35	o
o	Tutanag — — — — —	141	o
	Whips		

		Value.	
		L.	S.
Whips and walking sticks	108	16	
Wine and mineral water	434	0	
Wood for coaches, furni- ture, &c.	2,070	0	
131 Horses	2,920	0	
38 Dogs	132	12	
27,316 Pieces of beaver skins	27,316	0	
239,967 Bottles	2,380	8	
3,282 Hogsheads of Burton ale	26,255	0	
61 Coaches and harness	2,084	4	
Clocks and watches	11,142	16	
193 Dozen of cyder	154	16	
195 Ankers of French brandy	781	16	
3,556 Chests of oranges and lemons	5,817	12	
10,703 Otter skins	14,844	4	
116 Reams of paper	45	4	
13 Ankers of shrub and rum	98	8	
61 Hogsheads of vinegar	147	16	
C 4		Sundry	

	Value.	
	£.	s.
Sundry drugs and colours	865	0
Sundry small articles	590	16
	<hr/>	
	£.423,942	12
	<hr/>	

To trifling minds such enumerations will appear trifling; they cannot expand their imaginations; they cannot embrace such a multiplicity of objects in the aggregate; and, considering them but singly, they think them beneath their attention. But the greater souls, who, under the direction of the Deity, and like the Deity watch over the dignity of nations at large, and consult for the safety and the happiness of millions of individuals, who see the infinite concatenations, and view the nice dependencies of one thing from another, will acknowledge, that it is the fairest, and, at the same time, the most evident mode

mode of arguing on the importance of commercial subjects. Arithmetical calculations, grounded on real facts, carry conviction with them : to understand them, to be convinced, and to submit to them, requires but natural sense, and natural equity. It is no more derogatory to the dignity of those who sit at the helm of government, or of those who sway the most brilliant sceptres, to count the yards of cloth made in a loom ; to reckon the candles burnt by the poorest manufacturer ; or to calculate the planks of the humblest cottage, than it is degrading to the same God, who bounded the heavens with his golden compass, who measured the earth with a span, to count the hairs of our heads, to watch over each grain of sand that keeps in the fury of the ocean, and to weigh each drop of water, that conveys our fleets from pole to pole.

But

But before I proceed any further to speak of the importance of this trade, I must remove an objection very weighty in appearance, and which will seem obvious to every reader, that will be at the trouble to compare the calculations of imports and exports, as they stand in the above statement.

The generality of mankind imagine, that a trade cannot be profitable to a country, where the imports sell for a considerably greater price than the exports; but the imports in our Russian trade, sell for a three times greater price than our exports, and therefore our Russian trade cannot be very profitable to us, how profitable soever it may be to the Russians.

This objection may have weight with superficial readers, and, indeed, with all those who, without being skilled in the great art of national commerce, consider the exports and
imports

imports of a nation at large, in the same light as they would consider the exports and imports of an individual merchant, in one individual branch of trade. But the parity does not hold, and the objection has been answered long ago, by the greatest authority in mercantile matters; Sir Josiah Child, whose words are so apposite to the present purpose, that I shall here cite them at full length; his authority will add weight to the reasoning; “ *This*
“ *rule, says he, barely considered, is fallible,*
“ *and erroneous, as to particular and distinct*
“ *trades.* This will appear, if it be con-
“ sidered, that a true measure of any par-
“ ticular trade, as to the profit or loss of
“ the nation thereby, cannot be taken by
“ the consideration of such trade in itself
“ singly, but as it stands in reference, and
“ is subservient to the general trade of
“ the kingdom. For it may so fall out,
“ that there may be some places to which

“ little of our English manufactures are
 “ exported, and yet the commodities we
 “ have from thence may be so necessary to
 “ the carrying on our trade in general, or
 “ some other particular trades, that with-
 “ out them the nation would greatly de-
 “ cline and decay in trade.

“ Now, in this case, if we should mea-
 “ sure such a particular trade by the afore-
 “ said notion of the balance, we should
 “ find the imports abundantly exceed the
 “ exports, and so be ready to conclude
 “ against such trade as destructive ;
 “ whereas, notwithstanding it may, in
 “ truth, be a very necessary, beneficial trade,
 “ and to the very great advantage of the
 “ nation.—As for instance—The trade of
 “ Denmark and Norway, the imports
 “ from whence are certainly many times
 “ the value of our native commodities ex-
 “ ported thither ; and yet it cannot be
 “ denied,

“ denied, but that trade is advantageous
 “ to the kingdom, not only because it
 “ gives, or would give, employment to
 “ two or three hundred sail of English
 “ shipping, (if we did a little mend our
 “ act of navigation) but principally, be-
 “ cause the commodities imported from
 “ thence, as timber, pitch, deals, and
 “ tar, are of such necessary use, in order
 “ to the building and supplying our
 “ shipping, that without them other
 “ trades would not be carried on.

“ It will not be denied by the Hon.
 “ East-India Company, but they import
 “ much more goods into England than
 “ they export; and that to purchase the
 “ same, they carry out quantities of gold
 “ and silver annually; yet no man that
 “ understands any thing of the trade of
 “ the world, will affirm, that England
 “ loseth by that trade.” Thus speaks that
 excellent

excellent writer, much to our present purpose; and a little after he says—" The
 " reason of all this is evident, for, where
 " a great trade is driven, especially where
 " much shipping is employed, whatever
 " becomes of the poor merchant that
 " drives the trade, multitudes of people
 " will be certain gainers; as his Majesty,
 " and his officers of customs, besides ship-
 " wrights, butchers, brewers, bakers,
 " rope-makers, porters, seamen, manu-
 " facturers, carmen, lightermen, and all
 " other artificers and people that depend
 " on trade and shipping; which, indeed,
 " more or less, the whole kingdom doth."

Now on this, I need but ask my readers, with what warmth Sir Jofiah would have spoken on our present trade with Russia, in which we employ not two hundred or three hundred sail of ships, but one thousand one hundred, in which we import so

many

many articles, not only *subservient to the general trade of the kingdom*, but also of *such necessary use, in order to the building and supplying our shipping*.

But observe the wonderful concatenation of our marine interest with this commerce. Surely we could not cherish and encourage it too much, were it only to import the materials necessary for the building of our ships; but, behold, we import these very materials in British bottoms; and thus in the very importation, we keep alive a fleet of one thousand one hundred vessels, while we treasure up materials for future fleets, to enrich the nation in time of peace, and defend it in time of war. Not less than twenty-two thousand sailors are constantly employed in manning these vessels. What a nursery for our warlike fleets!

The

men	Seamen	
@ 20	ea	22000
	1,100 Ships	@ 200 ea
Tons	220,000	

The loss Great-Britain sustained by a diminution of the American trade, would have been very severely felt, both in her manufactories and in her marine powers, had she been unable to substitute a new employment for her ships and seamen, in an increase of trade to Russia; an increase more than equal to the diminution which we had sustained,

The object which the French had in view, by assisting the Americans to tear themselves away from their allegiance to England, was not so much to increase their own commerce, as to lessen ours; and in lessening our commerce to lessen our naval power. France triumphed at our loss of America, in the thought of having deprived us of a most fruitful supply of seamen, in the fleets that used to sail across the Atlantic. But her arts were in vain. The fleets which she had seen

lopped off in the Atlantic, which she hoped were destroyed beyond recovery, she grieves to see start up again with redoubled vigour—with redoubled multitudes in the Baltic.

Not Hydra stronger, when dismember'd, rose
Against Alcmena's much enduring son,
Grieving to find from his repeated blows,
The foe redoubled and his toil begun.

HOR. 4. 4.

The Russia trade has long been considered by the people on our Northern coasts, in the same light as our East and West-India trades, by the inhabitants of London, Bristol, and Liverpool, to wit, as the inexhaustible source of all their riches.

Thousands of ship-builders are constantly employed in equipping these fleets in the several out-ports, and are immedi-

D

ately

ately sent off to the King's dock-yards, whenever called for.

The ships themselves are ready at hand, in case of any sudden emergency, to be armed and converted into transports.

And in addition to the one thousand one hundred vessels already mentioned, as actually employed in carrying on this commerce between Russia and Great-Britain, I must not forget to point out many hundreds of others, which after the Russian produce has been landed in our warehouses, has paid the duties, and been re-shipped again, export it to America, France, Spain, Portugal, and to many ports in the Mediterranean sea.

Nor will it be foreign to my present purpose to mention here, that during the late American war, England, deprived of

her usual supplies of ships from that country, found an ample resource in the friendship of Russia, whose Empress favoured the British subjects with an unlimited permission, to build what number of ships they pleased in her dominions, for the use of our government. Accordingly, about ten sail of large ships, each of the average burthen of 1200 tons, were annually constructed in Russia, whence they immediately sailed for London, to be employed in the publick service of our country. The benefit of so seasonable a reinforcement was certainly great, as our nation could scarce, if at all, have furnished vessels of such magnitude, amidst the embarrassments of so disastrous a war.

This is as accurate a detail, as circumstances allow me to gather, of our trade with Russia. I will here recapitulate the whole in few words, that every reader,

even the most unskilled in commercial matters, may see the importance of it.

1st. We import from Russia annually, a great quantity of iron, deals, hemp, masts, flax, wrought and unwrought, tallow, pitch, tar, and other articles, to the value of upwards of 3,000,000l. sterling.

2dly. We export to Russia annually, a great variety of our manufactures, to the value of at least 1,000,000l. sterling.

3dly. We import and export these commodities in British bottoms, the freightage of which amounts to 450,000l.

4thly. The chief of these articles imported to us, are the necessary materials for ship-building.

5thly.

5thly. This trade keeps alive a fleet of 1,100 British ships, and employs no less than 22,000 British seamen; 22,000 not enervated by the warmth of milder climates, but hardened by the colds and frost of the Baltic.

6thly. Most of our manufactories derive either their materials or their instruments from this trade.

7thly. Government receives annually, between 7 and 800,000l. duties, on the exports and imports of this trade.

If all this cannot convince both the Sovereign and his Ministers, the Parliament and the Nation at large, of the importance of this trade, we must say, that there neither is, nor can be, any importance in trade, and that Britain can hold the balance of Europe without her trade;

that her fleets can subsist—can be manned—can conquer without her trade—that her importance abroad—her splendour at home, and the fasces of the main are independent of her trade.

But let us view all these advantages in still another light ; if any man be so blind as not to see their magnitude at present, let us refer him to future probabilities, let us say the trade of Russia, such as it has been since the independence of America, is only in its infancy ? Is it not a gigantic infancy ? Can it advance with greater strides to the highest pitch of commercial, of civil, of political importance ? The number of British ships that traded to Russia in 1778, has this year been almost doubled ; and as the population of that country increases, the quantity of our exports will annually increase with it. The same year, which is only ten years ago, the trade of Petersburg was upwards of
3,360,000l.

3,360,000l. in exports and imports ; of which more than one-third was carried on by the English. This branch alone, therefore, must of itself have formed an important commerce, even in its infancy. Then 250 British vessels were insufficient to grasp our share of the trade ; but the late year, 1788, no less than 550 have been employed in that harbour, and 550 in the others.

And here, again, I am glad to back my sentiments, with the greater authority of Sir Josiah Child. Having himself asked the question, how the balance of trade is the best resolved, he answers thus—" The
 " best and most certain discovery, to my
 " apprehension, is to be made from the
 " increase or diminution of our trade and
 " shipping in general. For if our trade
 " and shipping diminish, whatever profit
 " particular men may make, the nation
 D 4 " undoubtedly

“ undoubtedly loseth; and on the con-
 “ trary, if our trade and shipping in-
 “ crease, how small or low soever the
 “ profits are to private men, it is an in-
 “ fallible indication, that the nation in
 “ general thrives; for I dare affirm, and
 “ that categorically, in all parts of the
 “ whole world, wherever trade is great and
 “ continues so, and grows daily more
 “ great and increaseth in shipping, and
 “ that for a succession, not of a few years
 “ but of ages, that trade must be national-
 “ ly profitable. As a town where only a
 “ fair is kept, if every year the number
 “ of people and commodities do aug-
 “ ment, that town, however the markets
 “ are, will gain; whereas, if there come
 “ still fewer and fewer people and com-
 “ modities, that place will decline and
 “ decay.”

And here I conclude, and hope the pub-
 lick will conclude with me, that the Rus-
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lian trade is important to this nation—important in its exports and imports—important to our navy—important to the conveniences of private life—important to many manufactories—important in its consequences, and important in the revenue which government draws from it.

Upon these considerations, I presume, it was, that a solemn treaty of commerce and navigation was concluded in 1734, between his Majesty George II. and Anne, Empress of Russia; and upon the same considerations, the treaty was renewed in 1766, between his present Majesty George III. and Catharine II. A treaty advantageous, honourable, friendly, and partial to this nation. And all this I address to the friends of commerce, only as introductory to one plain—one important question.

WHY

WHY DOES NOT THIS NATION RENEW THE SAID COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH RUSSIA? I appeal to every friend of my country—to every friend of the present administration—to every friend of the present opposition, whether the question be not worthy of a serious consideration.

We have renewed our treaties of commerce with Portugal; we have renewed our treaties of commerce with Spain; we have stipulated something or other of a paltry commerce with America; and what is most wonderful, we have formed a laborious, dubious kind of commercial treaty with France—and nothing is said about the trade of Russia.

The long friendship that has subsisted between Great-Britain and Russia, makes a renewal of the treaty of commerce devoutly to be wished, by every friend of this country,

country. The advantages to both countries have been very great ; but how great soever they may have been to this, they have been still greater to Russia,

The Russians will ever own, that in their commerce with Great-Britain, they have been treated with more justice, with more generosity, and with fuller confidence by our merchants, than by the merchants of any other nation of Europe. We are not content barely to give them *long credit* for the money due to us, and to *pay them* the moment our money is due to them, but we even *lend* or *advance* them immense sums at the beginning of every year, to enable them to travel into the interior parts of their country during the winter, and to purchase there every species of commodity, which they afterwards bring down to their harbours in spring or summer.

It

It is owing to this custom of advancing money to the Russian merchants, many months before they deliver the goods, that the trade of Russia has been greatly increased, and has circulated riches throughout her vast dominions.

There is no nation on the records of history, that has so rapidly risen from a state of darkness and barbarism, to that height of splendour and civilization, as the Russians have done during this century. The causes of this rapid and wonderful change have been many; but I will venture to affirm, that her intercourse with Great-Britain has been the greatest.

It is with reason that we look up to Peter the Great, as to the most glorious monarch of this age, and posterity will ever relate his deeds with praise and admiration.—But the same posterity, if it do justice

justice to merit, will be equally lavish of its praises in the commendation of the present Empress, who by her superior wisdom and perseverance, has raised so glorious a superstructure on the foundations which had been laid by him. He knew that the interest of Russia depended on her connexion with England; he came in person to our Court, to cement the friendship that already subsisted between the two nations, and was permitted to work in our dock-yards, to obtain clearer notions of building future fleets, for the defence, and for the commerce of his country. The great plans that he had formed, she has executed; the glorious things which he had meditated, she has realized.—Can any one imagine, that so enlightened an Empress, and at the same time so zealous for the interest of her country, will neglect the most powerful means of aggrandizing it, so clearly pointed out to her in
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her connexions with Great-Britain.— While she resides at Petersburgh, can she fail to know, that upwards of 2,000,000*l.* sterling balance in the favour of Russia, results from her trade with us. Withdraw the commodities we export to Russia, dry up the source of import and export duties which are paid her from the commerce of Great-Britain, and tell me how she will furnish her armies, build her fleets, or maintain her wars. There is no Russian, who is a friend to his own country, but what must be at the same time a friend to Great-Britain. There is no Russian who is acquainted with the importance of commerce, but what must heartily wish to see a renewal of their commercial treaty with us.

Our friendship for Russia seems to have been cooled without reason. The *armed neutrality* has been for years in
every

every one's mouth, and no one will impartially consider the sense of the words. We have scowled with malignant eyes, on ships that were armed as much against France or Spain, as against us. We have cried out offence, where no offence was; and we have thought ourselves injured while we have been cherished. Are we conscious of a more piratical spirit than our neighbours? Were not the Russian ships armed only to protect the slight commerce carried on under their own flags? Were they not equally armed against every accidental rapine of the French privateers, and of the English, of the Americans, and of the Spanish; and when the Hollanders, who were the main branch of the armed neutrality, became a party concerned in the war, they were armed against every accidental rapine of their privateers also.

Will

Will a nation armed against Britain, brandish her sword against us with one hand, and build ships for us with the other? How happy should I be to tear away the veil, that has hitherto concealed the truth of things from my country. In the midst of so widely extended a war, while America, Spain, and France, sent out swarms of privateers and larger vessels to plunder, to sink, to destroy, at any rate, the British commerce; and Britain, in return, poured out her undaunted thousands to check their rapine; to protect her own commerce; to retaliate on her distant enemies and on her invaders; it was necessary for the peaceful powers in the North, to take some little care of their own subjects.

In the heat of so furious a war, there is no one so unacquainted with military licentiousness, as not to know, that the lookers on must be on their guard, or must suffer

suffer violence from one party or the other. And can they be on their guard without garrisoning their towns on land, or without arming their vessels at sea. The Hollanders, therefore, the Danes, the Swedes, and the Russians, armed their vessels, combined together in mutual defence, and called their combination the *armed neutrality*. Is this arming against Britain?—Was ever a British subject injured by the Russians acceding to the armed neutrality? But Russia had received many favours from Great-Britain. She had so. What then? Was she therefore to let every one, Spaniards, French, Americans, English, plunder her vessels, without attempting to defend them? Believe me, the French on this occasion, brought into play one of the most curious manœuvres of policy, that has been known of in this century. They were conscious, that the powers of the North had armed their fleets to act on

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the defensive only ; but as so many nations were already in arms against us, they industriously circulated the report, that all the North, and Russia in particular, had armed to check the insolence of the haughty Islanders. Such was their language ; a language replete with falsehood and insult, and which was foolishly re-echoed in our own papers. The false alarm founded through the nation, and as rapidly as undeservedly obtained universal credit. But let us suppose, what is absolutely false, that in this armed neutrality, Russia betrayed a glimmering of hostility against us. Is that so unpardonable an offence, that rather than forget it, we shall be ready to forego or to overlook the many advantages resulting from her important commerce ? Did not the Danes,—did not the *Gallic* Court of Sweden, commit the same offence against us ? Did not Holland lay aside her neutrality, and join in

open

open war against us? Or did America, France, and Spain, shew very friendly dispositions towards us? Still with France, with Spain, with America, we are endeavouring to unite ourselves in commercial treaties. In favour of Holland we have expended great sums of money, and have been up in arms; we are in perfect amity with Denmark; and in favour of Sweden, we have lately persuaded Denmark to observe a neutrality in the present war between the Russians and Turks. And what shall we do in favour of Russia?—Let us represent to the Minister the importance of this trade—let us entreat him to add stability to this importance, by a renewal of the former treaties; surely in his prudence, he will see there can be no unsurmountable obstacle to our wishes—and to point out a means of serving his country, will be the surest means of pleasing him.

F I N I S.

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